



Vestry News

SEPTEMBER 2025



RALLY DAY

Welcome Back! Celebration of Joy and Kindness

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Youth Programs are Back!
- Choir Returns!
- Ice Cream Sundaes
- Bring A Friend and catch up with old friends

SUNDAY, SEPT 7TH

JOIN US!



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Pastor's Letter

It feels like it was just June. And yet, we are in September already. It was a hot and sunny summer, so I trust we all had opportunities to do the things we love to do in the summer. And now, the lovers of fall are excited for the crisp mornings and autumn activities. I like fall when I don't think about the winter coming. This year, I am looking forward to my first fall and winter with UCC Boxborough. That is exciting.

What is new this fall? We are rolling out a new curriculum program for the youth on Sundays. I am excited to work with the ~15 adults volunteering with the program. We are blessed to have so many people who want to engage with our youth in different ways. I also hope that our curriculum will begin to pull together the elements of faith that identify us as a community. I hope we can work this year, to offer a safe space to explore love, hope, peace, and faith to more people in our community.

The other new thing on Sunday mornings is our scripture reading selections. The last couple of years, our Sunday morning scriptures have been selected from what is called the Common Revised Lectionary. It is the most popular lectionary (weekly list of scriptures) used at churches across the world. This fall, I will be using a fairly new lectionary. It is called, the Narrative Lectionary. I know this is very geeky and most people don't notice these things. However, I am a geek and so I am excited about this change. Our scriptures will begin with selections from Genesis and move through the entire Bible, allowing us to see the context and connections of the story through the lenses of many different voices. We will also have a Gospel of John reading each week, one of my favorite gospels. This fall we will study these scriptures with one theme in mind, Hope.

We seem to all be very tired. I hear many friends, colleagues, and congregants conveying a feeling of hopelessness. I don't have answers to this sense of being overwhelmed by the pain and suffering in our world. I don't have a strategic plan or step by step instructions to bring more love, compassion, and healing into our public discourse. However, I can offer one thing into our lives as a community. I can offer a space for us to gather and focus ourselves on Hope. I trust that focusing ourselves on Hope can build strength and courage; stir our souls in creativity; and provide opportunities for our community to build something wonderful in the midst of the chaos.

The world needs a community that focuses on Hope. The world needs a community that strives to inject love into this mess of division, fear, and scarcity. We can do something in this world. We can focus our actions on caring for the world; welcoming all; and growing in Spirit through a lens of Hope. I pray that we can explore together, and our exploration will beckon our hearts to sharing abundance; providing safe spaces; and speaking out for love, peace, and justice for all of God's creation.

In Hope,
Pastor Fran.



September Worship

Sunday, September 7th - Rally Day/Communion

Sunday, September 14th - Children receive Bible Story Books

Sunday, September 21st - Worship in Action - Worcester Fellowship Lunches

Sunday, September 28th - Maricel Lucero will speak to food needs in Cuba



OUR SERVICES ARE SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM

To worship via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306753408?pwd=VlgwZUtYU05JeVU2WklHWGtUWExGdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 0675 3408

Passcode: 7387

Please note: our worship services are streamed live via Zoom, and recorded for posting on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChIayswOH7Ta7LYVK-BcAyA>).

Zoom offers closed captioning subtitles for those who find that helpful.

Volunteer Opportunities!

We're looking for a few helping hands to support our upcoming Sunday worship services—whether it's greeting, ushering, lay reading, or young folks lighting candles. If you feel called to serve or just want to be part of something meaningful, we'd love to have you! No experience needed! For information on the tasks, please contact the deacon chair, Larry Wellington or Heidi Matthew. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. We use sign up genius to help organize the Sundays. See link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA9AF2AA1FDC61-sunday2#/>



Beautify the sanctuary with flowers!

Flower dedications are a beautiful way to honor loved ones.

If you would like to bring or donate flowers to acknowledge a special person, please reach out to Nikki in the office to sign up or go to the flower sign up board in the Gathering Room to add your name to place flowers on the altar for a specific week, boxborochurch@verizon.net.

Tuesday morning Bible Study

Tuesday morning bible studies has restarted at 10 am. Zoom opens at 9:45 am for chatting and connecting.

The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81402428901>

Meeting ID: **814 0142 8901** Passcode: **7387**



Ornament Table- Merrie Christmas Fair 2025



Crafters have been busy making ornaments and/or decorations at home over this past summer. We so appreciate all of the creativity of everyone who has made ornaments over the last few months. However, we are still looking to add to our collection of ornaments and/or decorations to sell at the Fair. If you have projects/ideas, please share them with us. We have a few kits and supplies available if you need items like bells, ribbon, felt, etc. We look forward to offering a variety of ornaments for this year's Merrie Christmas Fair to make the holidays sparkle. Look for more updates in the Flash about possible workshops to make ornaments in the Fall.

For more information, contact co-chairs: Gloria Roe, gloria.roe@comcast.net / 978-502-9625, Linda Morse 978-266-2836 / Kcmorse@verizon.net or Connie Brown at 978-391-4854 / Conniebcmc@comcast.net

FreeBee Market with a Harvest Vibe!

September 13, 2025

Come to the petting zoo and enjoy some local history, including a photo op on Owens tractor. Enjoy free hotdogs from the Boxborough church and browse through the community booths to find out what's happening in the area.

And as harvest season peeks, so has the free gleaned produce at FreeBee! Come and join your neighbors for free food and fun on Saturday September 13 on the UCC Boxborough side lawn at 30 Middle Road. Saturday, 10:30am-12:00pm



Coming to UCCB in October...

A Cuba Benefit Concert



with

solo canto
a Pan-Latin band

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025

United Church of Christ of Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave. Boxborough

7:30PM (doors open at 7PM)

Tickets \$25 in advance; \$30 cash at the door
\$15 for students

Raising funds for food, medicine, and supplies to help people
in Cuba through the worst economic crisis in their history

(scan the QR code to make a donation or purchase tickets now)



A Legacy of Love and Generosity



Each year at our annual meeting, we recognize and honor those who have established endowed funds to sustain the ministries of UCC Boxborough for generations to come. These gifts—rooted in faith, love, and commitment—ensure that your generosity can continue to support our mission, just like those who came before us.

We want to lift up the stories of church members who made a planned gift—gifts that are still bearing fruit today. Here are two more stories to celebrate.

The Benjamin Stowe Hager Fund

This fund was established under the will of Benjamin's only daughter, Miss Mary Elizabeth Hager. Benjamin joined this church in 1956, four years after his marriage to Elizabeth Blanchard who was already a member. He went on to be a member of the "Pecuniary Committee" (today, Council) and served as collector, treasurer, moderator, and several special committees. He taught Sunday School in the Youth, Young Men and Adult classes. Benjamin was buried in the North Cemetery on Hill Road. Elizabeth Hager White was the last family trustee of the fund. She stated the fund was to be used "for special expenses rather than the regular operating budget of the church" and we continue to honor that wish.

The Ina Wetherbee Carlson Fund

In December 1984, Ina Wetherbee Carlson provided a financial gift to the church, requesting that the funds be reinvested each year, used for missions and also to place a bouquet of flowers on the altar the third Sunday of November and a notice to be placed in that Sunday's bulletin to read as follows: To The Glory Of God In Loving Memory of Charles T and Mercie L Weatherbee and their children.

These funds are more than financial contributions—they are living memorials to the people who helped shape our community. Their foresight and faith continue to bless UCCB today.

LOOKING AHEAD: YOUR LEGACY MATTERS

In 2015, UCCB established a church-wide Endowment Fund. Active members of our community have been contributing to this fund since its founding, with gifts large and small. This permanent fund gives the church flexibility to use income from invested assets wherever it's most needed—today and into the future.

[If you would like to learn more about financial stewardship at UCCB, please review the Giving page on our website \(https://boxboroughucc.org/giving/\)](https://boxboroughucc.org/giving/) or ask a member of the Generosity Ministry Team.

Your commitment to this congregation and community helps fuel all we can **imagine** and accomplish together. **Thank you!**

Yours in faith,

Generosity Ministry Team: Kellie Senghas, Pastor Fran Graveson



Tuesday—Friday 9AM—2PM

Farewell



On Sunday, August 31, we gathered in prayer and gratitude to bid farewell to Griet as she embarks on a new chapter in Washington, DC. Griet has been a steadfast presence at UCCB, serving on numerous committees and playing a vital role in the Open Doors campaign that helped bring our building reconstruction to life. While we rejoice that she'll be closer to family and friends, her absence will be felt within our community. We send her off with love, blessings, and heartfelt thanks.

Russ Goliger's Installation



We are so happy that our past field education intern, Rev. Russ Goliger, is being installed as minister at First Congregational Church of Westminster on Sunday, September 14th at 3 pm. All are welcome to celebrate with Russ and the congregation!!

September 2025

www.boxboroughucc.org

978-263-7387

boxborochurch@verizon.net

Vestry News articles are due starting the 24th of each month. Please submit your article or pictures to hmatthew25@verizon.net and boxborochurch@verizon.net



Two beautiful photos taken by Ginny Harris this summer.